

## REVIEWS.

and corruption is one that it will be found, practically, most difficult to close up. Mere rules of law, or morality, seem to act as a kind of compensation in the minds of too many in our day, perhaps in all times, for giving more or less countenance to exceptional iniquities, upon the principle that all rules must and will have some exceptions, till the latter overbalance and outnumber the former.

I. F. R.

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**THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY COMPANION FOR 1876.** Edited by H. A. Morgan, Barrister-at-Law. Eleventh Edition. Ottawa.

This useful little book again makes its appearance—larger and more complete than ever. Not being a law book, and pertaining more to the political world, we cannot be expected to pronounce an opinion on its merits. We will say this, however, that its preparation shows great industry and careful arrangement on the part of the compiler, and that its reputation in the circles best able to judge is very high. No one who reads the papers should be without it.

**THE CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT ACT OF 1869, AS AMENDED AND IN FORCE IN THE SEVERAL PROVINCES OF THE DOMINION.** With Notes, Commentaries, Precedents of Indictment, &c., &c. By H. E. Taschereau, one of the Judges of the Superior Court for the Province of Quebec. 2 Vols. Vol. I. published by the Lovell Printing and Publishing Company, Montreal; vol. II. by R. Carswell, publisher, Toronto.

"The following pages will be found to contain the full text of the Criminal Statute Consolidation Acts of 1869, with a synopsis under each clause of the law and the rules of pleading, practice and evidence applicable to it." So runs the preface to the first volume. No cases decided in the Provinces are referred to; but "the reported English cases, down to July, 1874, will be found numerously cited and largely made use of."

The second volume contains the Criminal Law Procedure Act of 1869, with annotations, and other criminal statutes

of general importance passed since 1869, not inserted in the first volume.

The work professes to be "hardly anything else but a compilation," chiefly of the annotations of Mr. Greaves, Q.C. The forms inserted appear to be wholly from Archbold.

It will be found very convenient to have all the criminal statutes together, in connection with much valuable matter culled from the best English works; but in this connection we cannot help expressing regret that the matter of the two volumes was not compressed into one volume of reasonable size, as it might readily be had the notes and commentaries been inserted as usual in smaller type.

A valuable little work by Hon. Mr. Abbott, Q.C.—the Insolvent Act of 1864, with Notes and Rules of Practice, contained in 100 pages, exclusive of index—could, by the same typographical arrangement as we find in Judge Taschereau's two volumes, be easily swelled into a volume as large as one of these now before us; whilst Harrison's Common Law Procedure Act, a single convenient volume, under the same typographical treatment as Judge Taschereau's book, would form at least six moderate sized volumes. With this, however, the author has usually less to do than the publisher; and though a small matter, it should not be overlooked by a critic, especially in a country where the art of bookmaking has not arrived at that perfection which it has attained in the mother country, though we can show specimens which compare very favourably with the best English works. We find also in the text several suggestions for alterations in the law, and touching the policy of certain provisions; and though some of them are interesting and suggestive, are rather out of place, it seems to us, in a work intended for ready reference and as a circuit companion; at all events, such matter is usually found in footnotes.

We doubt if the learned Judge appreciates properly the difficulty of assimilating and consolidating the criminal laws in force in four provinces, and presenting them in such a shape as to receive the approval of the Legislature—a formidable work, and generally done upon elaborate consideration and discussion by commission, in which all the provinces should be represented. The wonder is, considering the brief time allowed for preparing the consolidation,